



*Information patients can use on:*

## **OPEN PAYMENTS**

### **What is Open Payments?**

Open Payments is a national disclosure program created by the Affordable Care Act that promotes transparency and accountability in the health care industry. It increases public awareness of financial relationships between the health care industry (like medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies) and physicians or teaching hospitals. The program collects and reports payments or transfers of value from the health care industry to physicians or teaching hospitals. These payments can be for many purposes, such as research, consulting, travel, and gifts. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will collect this data annually, and make this data publicly available and searchable online at [cms.gov/openpayments](http://cms.gov/openpayments).

### **Why is this program important?**

Open Payments is a public, national database of the financial relationships between the health care industry, physicians, and teaching hospitals that you can use. This will help promote transparency and accountability in health care.

### **What kinds of payments will be reported?**

There are many kinds of financial relationships between the health care industry, physicians, and teaching hospitals. Here are some examples of payments that physicians might receive that would need to be reported under this program:

- Payments for speaking engagements or consultations
- Gifts, like promotional gadgets, items useful in a medical practice, or vacations
- Entertainment, like tickets to a sporting event, concert, or theater shows
- Food and drink
- Travel and lodging
- Education, like textbooks and medical refresher courses
- Research activities, including enrolling patients in clinical trials

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## **What do these payments mean?**

Collaboration among physicians, teaching hospitals, and health care manufacturing companies contributes to the design and delivery of many life-saving drugs and devices. However, sometimes these payments can also introduce conflicts of interest.

Open Payments doesn't make assumptions or draw conclusions about the information reported. This means that the program won't identify which manufacturer-provider relationships are beneficial or which may cause conflicts of interest. Instead, the program is designed to increase public awareness about these relationships and discourage payments and other transfers of value that might have inappropriate influence on research, education, standard setting, and most important, clinical decision making.

## **What should I do with this information?**

The program doesn't make assumptions or draw conclusions about the information reported, and you shouldn't either. If you have any concerns with the information you see on the website, you should include that as one of the many discussion points in your physician-patient relationship.

## **Will this have any effect on my insurance?**

No. Your insurance plan isn't affected by Open Payments.

## **Will my physician change any of my prescriptions or treatments because of this program?**

Changes in your prescriptions or treatments should be based on your medical issues, diagnoses, and physicians' educated decisions.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Visit [cms.gov/openpayments](https://cms.gov/openpayments) to learn more about Open Payments. Live Help Desk support is available by calling 1-855-326-8366, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (CT), excluding federal holidays.

